

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Leaked records open a "Pandora" box of financial secrets

By MICHAEL LIETKE and JONATHAN MATTISE  
Associated Press

Hundreds of world leaders, powerful politicians, billionaires, celebrities, religious leaders and drug dealers have been hiding their investments in mansions, exclusive beachfront property, yachts and other assets for the past quarter-century, according to a review of nearly 12 million files obtained from 14 firms located around the world. The report released Sunday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists involved 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries. It's being dubbed the "Pandora Papers" because the findings shed light on the previously hidden dealings of the elite and the corrupt, and how they have used offshore accounts to shield assets collectively worth trillions of dollars.

The more than 330 current and former politicians identified as beneficiaries of the secret accounts include Jordan's King Abdullah II, former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Czech Republic Prime Minister Andrej Babis, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso, and associates of both Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Continued on Page 2

## SECRETS OF SUCCESS



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a Security Council meeting via video conference at the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, in this Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, file photo. Associated Press

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## Leaked records open a “Pandora” box of financial secrets

Continued from Front

The billionaires called out in the report include Turkish construction mogul Erman Ilıcak and Robert T. Brockman, the former CEO of software maker Reynolds & Reynolds.

Many of the accounts were designed to evade taxes and conceal assets for other shady reasons, according to the report.

“The new data leak must

be a wake-up call,” said Sven Giegold, a Green party lawmaker in the European Parliament. “Global tax evasion fuels global inequality. We need to expand and sharpen the countermeasures now.”

Oxfam International, a British consortium of charities, applauded the Pandora Papers for exposing brazen examples of greed that deprived countries of tax revenue that could be used to

finance programs and projects for the greater good.

“This is where our missing hospitals are,” Oxfam said in a statement. “This is where the pay-packets sit of all the extra teachers and firefighters and public servants we need. Whenever a politician or business leader claims there is ‘no money’ to pay for climate damage and innovation, for more and better jobs, for a fair post-COVID re-



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is shown ahead of a meeting at the EU Charlemagne building in Brussels, in this Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, file photo.

Associated Press

covery, for more overseas aid, they know where to look.”

The Pandora Papers are a follow to a similar project released in 2016 called the “Panama Papers” compiled by the same journalistic group.

The latest bombshell is even more expansive, porting through nearly 3 terabytes of data — the equivalent of roughly 750,000 photos on a smartphone — leaked from 14 different service providers doing business in 38 different jurisdictions in the world. The records date back to the 1970s, but most of the files span from 1996 to 2020.

In contrast, the Panama Papers culled through 2.6 terabytes of data leaked by one now-defunct law firm called Mossack Fonseca that was located in the country that inspired that project’s nickname.

The latest investigation dug into accounts registered in familiar offshore havens, including the British Virgin Islands, Seychelles, Hong Kong, and Belize. But some of the secret accounts were also scattered around in trusts set up in the U.S., including 81 in South Dakota and 37 in Florida.

Some of the initial findings

released Sunday painted a sordid picture of the prominent people involved.

For instance, the investigation found advisers helped King Abdullah II of Jordan set up at least three dozen shell companies from 1995 to 2017, helping the monarch buy 14 homes worth more than \$106 million in the U.S. and the U.K. One was a \$23 million California ocean-view property bought in 2017 through a British Virgin Islands company. The advisers were identified as an English accountant in Switzerland and lawyers in the British Virgin Islands.

There was no immediate comment from Jordan’s Royal Palace.

The details are an embarrassing blow to Abdullah, whose government was engulfed in scandal this year when his half brother, former Crown Prince Hamzah, accused the “ruling system” of corruption and incompetence. The king claimed he was the victim of a “malicious plot,” placed his half brother under house arrest and put two former close aides on trial.

Abdullah took power in 1999 after the death of his father, King Hussein. □



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# Virus surge hits New England despite high vaccination rates

By WILSON RING

Associated Press

Despite having the highest vaccination rates in the country, there are constant reminders for most New England states of just how vicious the delta variant of COVID-19 is.

Hospitals across the region are seeing full intensive care units and staff shortages are starting to affect care. Public officials are pleading with the unvaccinated to get the shots. Health care workers are coping with pent-up demand for other kinds of care that had been delayed by the pandemic.

"I think it's clearly frustrating for all of us," said Michael Pieciak, the commissioner of the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation who monitors COVID-19 statistics for the state. "We want kids to be safe in school, we want parents not to have to worry about their child's education and health." Even though parts of New England are seeing record case counts, hospitalizations and deaths that rival pre-vaccine peaks, largely among the unvaccinated, the region hasn't seen the impact the delta variant wave has wrought on other parts of the country. According to statistics from The Associated Press, the five states with the highest percentage of a fully vaccinated population are all in New England, with Vermont leading, followed



A clinic conducts COVID-19 tests and administers vaccinations at Bethel AME Church, Friday, Sept. 24, 2021, in Providence, R.I.

by Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. New Hampshire is 10th.

According to the AP data, full vaccination rates across the six New England states range from a high of 69.4% in Vermont to 61.5% in New Hampshire.

Despite the relatively high vaccination rates — the U.S. as a whole is averaging 55.5% — there are still hundreds of thousands of people across the region who, for one reason or another, remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to infection.

Now, a Rhode Island official said he didn't think the 70% vaccination goal, once touted as the level

that would help end the pandemic in the state, is enough.

"What we've learned with delta and looking beyond delta, is because that's where our focus is as well, to really reach those levels of vaccination, to give you that true population level protection, you need to be in excess of 90%," said Tom McCarthy, the executive director of the Rhode Island Department of Health COVID Response Unit.

Officials throughout New England continue to push the unvaccinated to get the shots as well as bolster vaccine mandates.

"We have it in our power to end this needless suf-

fering and heartbreak; a way to protect our health and that of the people we love; a way to give our heroic doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals a much-needed break; a way to protect our children — please get vaccinated today," Maine's Democratic Gov. Janet Mills said recently.

Yet the head of UMass Memorial Health, the largest health system in central Massachusetts, said recently that regional hospitals were seeing nearly 20 times more COVID-19 patients than in June and there isn't an ICU bed to spare.

In Connecticut, the Legislature just extended the gov-

ernor's emergency powers to make it easier to cope with the latest wave of the pandemic.

Case counts in Vermont, which has continually boasted about high vaccination and low hospitalization and death rates, are the highest during the pandemic. Hospitalizations are approaching the pandemic peak from last winter and September was Vermont's second-deadliest month during the pandemic.

On Sept. 22, Maine had nearly 90 people in intensive care units, a pandemic peak for the state. Maine also recently passed 1,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Dr. Gretchen Volpe, an infectious disease specialist at the 48-bed York Hospital in Maine, said the delta surge has made it harder to find care for patients who need more assistance.

"The physicians who are transferring people have commented to me that they keep having to go farther and call more places to achieve that goal, Volpe said. On Friday, the United States crossed the threshold of 700,000 deaths from COVID-19. The deaths during the delta surge have been unrelenting in hotspots in the South. New England has been at the other end of the spectrum, but the region is still coping with the same surge that has ravaged other parts of the country. □

## Trump asks judge to force Twitter to restore his account

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former President Donald Trump has asked a federal judge in Florida to force Twitter to restore his account, which the company suspended in January following the deadly storming of the U.S. Capitol.

Trump's attorneys on Friday filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Miami seeking a preliminary injunction against Twitter and its CEO, Jack Dorsey. They argue that Twitter is censoring Trump in violation of his

First Amendment rights, according to the motion.

Twitter declined to comment Saturday on Trump's filing.

The company permanently banned Trump from its platform days after his followers violently stormed the Capitol building to try to block Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win. Twitter cited concerns that Trump would incite further violence.

Prior to the ban, Trump had roughly 89 million followers

on Twitter.

Trump was also suspended from Facebook and Google's YouTube over similar concerns that he would provoke violence. Facebook's ban will last two years, until Jan. 7, 2023, after which the company will review his suspension. YouTube's ban is indefinite. In July, Trump filed lawsuits in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida against all three tech companies and their CEOs, claiming that he and other



In this July 11, 2021, file photo former President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Dallas, Texas.

Associated Press

conservatives have been wrongfully censored. The motion for a preliminary

injunction was filed as part of Trump's case against Twitter. □



# Major oil spill off Southern California fouls beaches

By **AMY TAXIN** and  
**CHRISTOPHER WEBER**

**Associated Press**

**HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.**

**(AP)** — One of the largest oil spills in recent Southern California history fouled popular beaches and killed wildlife while crews scrambled Sunday to contain the crude before it spread further into protected wetlands.

At least 126,000 gallons (572,807 liters) of oil spilled into the waters off Orange County, according to a statement from the city of Huntington Beach.

"The spill has significantly affected Huntington Beach, with substantial ecological impacts occurring at the beach and at the Huntington Beach Wetlands," the statement said.

The oil created a mile-wide sheen in the ocean and washed ashore in sticky, black globules along with dead birds and fish. Crews led by the U.S. Coast Guard deployed skimmers and floating barriers known as booms to try to stop further incursion into the wetlands and the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

A petroleum stench permeated the air throughout the area, said Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley.

"You get the taste in the mouth just from the vapors in the air," she said.

The closure stretched from



**Boats with Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), an oil spill removal organization (OSRO), deploy floating barriers known as booms to try to stop further incursion of an oil slick off Huntington Beach, Calif., Sunday., Oct. 3, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

the Huntington Beach Pier nearly 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) south to the Santa Ana River jetty amid summerlike weather that would have brought beachgoers to the wide strand for volleyball, swimming and surfing. Yellow caution tape was strung between lifeguard towers to keep people away.

Officials canceled the final day of the annual Pacific Air Show that typically draws thousands of spectators to Huntington Beach, a city of about 199,000 resi-

dents about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of downtown Los Angeles. The show featured flyovers by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The oil slick originated from a broken pipeline connected to an offshore oil platform known as Elly, Foley said on Twitter. Elly is connected by walkway to another platform, Ellen, located just over 8.5 miles (about 14 kilometers) off Long Beach and operated by Beta Operating Company, according to the feder-

al Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Beta and its parent company, Houston-based Amplify Energy Corp., didn't immediately return phone messages and emails seeking comment.

Foley said Newport Beach Mayor Brad Avery told her that he encountered the oil slick while in a boat traveling back to the mainland from Santa Catalina Island. "He saw dolphins swimming thru the oil," Foley tweeted. The Huntington Beach statement early Sunday

said "while the leak has not been completely stopped, preliminary patching has been completed to repair the oil spill site," with additional repairs planned.

The spill comes three decades after a massive oil leak hit the same stretch of Orange County coast. On Feb. 7, 1990, the oil tanker American Trader ran over its anchor off Huntington Beach, spilling nearly 417,000 gallons (1.6 million liters) of crude. Fish and about 3,400 birds were killed.

In 2015, a ruptured pipeline north of Santa Barbara sent 143,000 gallons (541,313 liters) of crude oil gushing onto Refugio State Beach.

At a news conference Saturday night, Orange County officials expressed concern about the environmental impacts of the spill and hoped crews could stop the oil before it flowed into sensitive wetlands.

"We've been working with our federal, state and county partners to mitigate the impact that could be a potential ecological disaster," Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr said.

The area is home to threatened and endangered species — including a plump shorebird called the snowy plover, the California least tern and humpback whales — a fishing industry and migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. □



**In this March 7, 1965, file photo, civil rights demonstrators struggle on the ground as state troopers break up a march in Selma, Ala.**

**Associated Press**

**SELMA, Ala. (AP)** — The world knows the names of John Lewis and a few more of the voting rights demonstrators who walked across

Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965 only to be attacked by Alabama state troopers on a day that came to be called "Bloody

## Project aims to ID voting rights marchers of 'Bloody Sunday'

Sunday." A new project aims to identify more of the hundreds of people who were involved in the protest.

Auburn University professors Richard Burt and Keith Hebert, working with a group of honors college students, have established a Facebook page where people can look through photographs of March 7, 1965, and identify themselves or others in the black-and-white images.

Online since August, the page is titled "Help us identify the Selma Bloody Sun-

day Foot Soldiers." It features multiple images of marchers who are labeled with red numerals, and users can add the names of people they recognize in the comments section.

Some people already have been identified, and the creators hope more will be as word spreads about the page, particularly in Selma, where the effort is being promoted. A class at Selma High School is helping as students enlist relatives to help identify marchers.

The project "highlights the need for additional histori-

cal research and documentation for one of the most famous moments in American history," Hebert said in a statement released by the university announcing the work.

"By taking a fresh look at Bloody Sunday, our research has revealed rich details about how the march unfolded that prior historians have overlooked. We intend to help those in Selma who want to do more to preserve and interpret the historic landscapes connected to this seminal event," he said. □



# Indigenous leader to France's Macron: Save the Amazon

By OLEG CETINIC

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Decrying the “predation” of his homeland, a Brazilian Indigenous leader is appealing to France's president to use his global sway to fight the deforestation of the Amazon. Ninawa, a leader of the Huni Kui people who uses just one name, delivered a letter on Saturday to the office of French President Emmanuel Macron. He urged the French leader to lean on the whole 27-nation European Union to limit trade linked to deforestation. His appeal also called for pressure on Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to halt logging, farming and development projects that are destroying the Amazon rainforest.

In the letter, seen by The Associated Press, Ninawa says: “The current (Brazilian) administration is working to authorize or amnesty the extraction and export of timber, as forest fires devastate flora and fauna, to create fields for monocultures of soybeans and for raising cattle.

“This same administration works to legalize and institutionalize the invasion of



In this Dec. 4, 2020 file photo, Ninawa Inu Huni kui protests against auctions for the exploration of oil fields in the Amazons outside an hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

the territories of the original peoples, considered as an obstacle to agribusiness and to what is wrongly called ‘development,’” it says. Ninawa left his letter with a police officer at the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris and got a receipt in return. There was no immediate word from Macron's office on whether the letter would be given to the French president himself.

Speaking to the AP, Ninawa said Indigenous people are “every single day putting our lives at risk so that we can defend nature for all humankind. So it is important that each country, each citizen from each country, do their share and also become guardians of Mother Nature.” Bolsonaro has recently tried to improve his environmental credibility, but

for most of his presidency has encouraged development within the Amazon region. He has dismissed global complaints about its destruction as a plot to hold back the nation's agribusiness. His administration also has weakened environmental authorities and backed legislative measures to loosen land protections, emboldening land grabbers. Ninawa wants European decision-makers to stop facilitating the trade of products directly linked to

deforestation, such as soybeans, meat and wood. He's in France to attend a peace conference in Normandy, on the invitation from the environmental group Planete Amazone. Saying Indigenous leaders have been killed for resisting loggers, he noted how Macron drew worldwide attention to forest fires in the Amazon in 2019, by tweeting that “our house is burning” and calling out Bolsonaro's policies. He also noted that France takes over the rotating EU presidency starting Jan. 1. He lamented that the global U.N. COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, which start Oct. 31, “are not solving the problem of our planet. COP has turned into a big fair for multinational business, with governments trading our biodiversity.”

“Today we must choose between a few decimal points of France's and Europe's GDP, and our own lives,” he wrote.

Bolsonaro has been trying to demonstrate to U.S. President Joe Biden's administration that he is serious about addressing climate change and curbing illegal deforestation. He's toned down his rhetoric celebrating Amazon development and demeaning Indigenous populations. □

## Plane crashes into building near Milan; all 8 aboard die

**ROME (AP)** — A small, single-engine plane carrying six passengers and a crew of two crashed Sunday into a vacant two-story office building in a Milan suburb, and authorities said all eight people aboard died. Investigators opened a probe into what caused the private plane to crash shortly after takeoff from Milan's Linate Airport en route to Olbia Airport on the Italian island of Sardinia. A thick column of dark smoke rose from the crash site and was visible for kilometers.

Several parked cars nearby went up in flames. Firefighters tweeted that no one else but those on board involved in the early afternoon crash near a subway station in San



Firefighters work on the site of a plane crash, in San Donato Milanese suburb of Milan, Italy, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.

Donato Milanese, a small town near Milan. Milan Prosecutor Tiziana Siciliano told reporters at the scene that the plane was proceeding on its flight until “a certain point, then an anomaly appeared

on the radar screen and it plunged,” striking the building's roof. Control tower officials reported the anomaly, she said, but further details on that weren't immediately given. □



### Announcement of the Government of Aruba Treasury Bills issue – Afl. 40,000,000.00 October 8, 2021 – January 7, 2022

Issuance pursuant to the State Ordinance on Treasury Paper (AB 1987 no. 3) and the State Decree no. 1 of September 17, 2021.

The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) informs of the upcoming Government of Aruba (GOA) Treasury Bills issue on October 8, 2021, in multiples of Afl. 250,000.00 and Afl. 1,000,000.00.

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Amount:          | Afl. 40,000,000.00 |
| Maturity:        | 3 months           |
| Redemption date: | January 7, 2022    |

Participation in the upcoming GOA Treasury Bills issue is only allowed through the intermediation of a local commercial bank. Application forms must be submitted to the CBA on **Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the latest 12:00 p.m. (cutoff time).**

Aruba, October 4, 2021  
Centrale Bank van Aruba



# Libya's migrant roundup reaches 4,000 amid major crackdown

By **SAMY MAGDY**

**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — A major crackdown in western Libya has resulted in the detention of at least 4,000 migrants, including hundreds of women and children, officials said Saturday. The U.N. said at least one young migrant was shot dead and 15 others injured, including two in serious conditions, in the crackdown.

The raids took place Friday in the western town of Gargaresh as part of what authorities described as a security campaign against illegal migration and drug trafficking. The Interior Ministry, which led the crackdown, made no mention of any traffickers or smugglers being arrested.

Officials said Friday that 500 illegal migrants had been detained but on Saturday reported that number had reached 4,000.

Gargaresh, a known hub for migrants and refugees, is about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) west of Tripoli, the Libyan capital. The town has seen several waves of raids on migrants over the years, but the latest one was described by activists as the fiercest so far.

Since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that ousted and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, Libya has emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the



**Migrants sit on the deck of the Italian supply vessel, Asso Ventinove as seen from aboard the Seabird, an NGO aircraft, after they were rescued from aboard a migrant boat drifting in the central Mediterranean Sea near the Bouri oilfields north of Libya, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

Middle East, hoping for a better life in Europe. Human traffickers have benefited from the chaos in the oil-rich nation and smuggled migrants through the country's lengthy border with six nations. They then pack desperate migrants into ill-equipped rubber boats in risky voyages through the perilous Central Mediterranean Sea route.

The detained were gathered in a facility in Tripoli called the Collection and Return Center, said police Col. Nouri al-Grettli, head of the center.

He said the migrants have been distributed to deten-

tion centers in Tripoli and surrounding towns. Libya's detention facilities are miserable, overcrowded places where migrants have suffered from abuses and severe ill-treatment, according to rights activists. A government official said authorities would "deport as many as possible" of the migrants to their home countries. He said many of the detained had lived illegally in Libya for years. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Tarik Lamloum, a Libyan activist working with the Be-

laady Organization for Human Rights, said the raids involved human rights violations against the migrants, especially in the way some women and children were detained.

Lamloum said many detained migrants have been registered with the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, as refugees or asylum-seekers. Vincent Cochetel, the agency's special envoy for the Central Mediterranean, told The Associated Press that initial reports were that at least one person was killed and 15 injured in the crackdown. He said in some cases security

personnel used excessive force and drove people out of their homes.

"We should not be surprised if people are scared and will try to leave by sea," he said.

Georgette Gagnon, the U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator for Libya, said unarmed migrants were harassed in their homes, beaten and shot in the crackdown which has also seen a communication blackout in Gargaresh.

Among the injured were five by gunshots with two of them being treated in an intensive care unit, she said in a statement late Saturday.

The statement didn't elaborate further details.

The crackdown comes amid a spike in crossings and attempted crossings of the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. Libya's coast guard has intercepted around 25,300 migrants and returned them to Libya's shores so far this year. Over 1,100 migrants were reported dead or presumed dead off Libya in the first nine months of 2021, but that number is believed to be higher, according to the U.N. migration agency. Hundreds of migrants were seen in images posted on social media Friday by the Interior Ministry sitting clustered together in a yard with the banner of the Collection and Return Center in the background. □



**Taliban fighters walk at the entrance of the Eidgah Mosque after an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

**SAMYA KULLAB**

**Associated Press**

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — At least five civilians were

killed in a bomb blast outside a Kabul mosque Sunday, a Taliban official said. It was the deadliest attack

## Bomb at Kabul mosque kills 5 civilians, Taliban say

in the Afghan capital since U.S. forces left at the end of August.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in an IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

An apparent roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Eid Gah Mosque in Kabul at a time when a memorial service was being held for the

mother of chief Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, the spokesman of the Interior Ministry.

The explosion underscored the growing challenges the Taliban face just weeks after they took control of Afghanistan in a blitz campaign, culminating in their takeover of Kabul on Aug. 15.

During their 20-year insurgency, the Taliban themselves had frequently carried out bombing and

shooting attacks, but are now faced with trying to contain rival militants using the same methods. The growing security challenges come at a time of an economic meltdown, as the Taliban struggle to run the country without the massive foreign aid given to U.S.-backed government they toppled.

Three suspects were arrested in Sunday's explosion in Kabul, said Bilal Karimi, a Taliban spokesman. He said Taliban fighters were not harmed. □





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## Puerto Ricans fume as outages threaten health, work, school

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Not a single hurricane has hit Puerto Rico this year, but hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. territory feel like they're living in the aftermath of a major storm: Students do homework by the light of dying cellphones, people who depend on insulin or respiratory therapies struggle to find power sources and the elderly are fleeing sweltering homes amid record high temperatures.

Power outages across the island have surged in recent weeks, with some lasting several days. Officials have blamed everything from seaweed to mechanical failures as the government calls the situation a "crass failure" that urgently needs to be fixed. The daily outages are snarling traffic, frying costly appliances, forcing doctors to cancel appointments, causing restaurants, shopping malls and schools to temporarily close and even prompting one university to suspend classes and another to declare a moratorium on exams.

"This is hell," said Iris Santiago, a 48-year-old with chronic health conditions who often joins her elderly neighbors outside when their apartment building goes dark and the humid heat soars into the 90s Fahrenheit.

"Like any Puerto Rican, I live in a constant state of anxiety because the power goes out every day," she said. "Not everyone has family they can run to and go into a home with a generator."

Santiago recently endured three days without power and had to throw out the eggs, chicken and milk that spoiled in her refrigerator.

She said power surges also caused hundreds of dollars of damage to her air conditioner and refrigerator.

Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, which is responsible for the generation of electricity, and Luma, a private company that handles transmission and distribution of power, have blamed mechanical failures at various plants involving components such as boilers and condensers. In one recent incident, seaweed clogged filters and a narrow pipe.

Luma also has implemented selective blackouts in recent weeks that have affected a majority of its 1.5 million clients, saying demand is exceeding supply. Luma took over transmission and distribution in June. Puerto Rico's governor said the company had pledged to reduce power interruptions by 30% and the length of outages by 40%. The island's Electric Power Authority has long struggled with mismanagement, corruption and, more recently, bankruptcy. In September 2016, a fire at a power plant sparked an island-wide blackout. A year later, Hurricane Maria hit as a Category 4 storm, shredding the aging power grid and leaving some customers up to a year without power.

Emergency repairs were done, but reconstruction work to strengthen the grid has yet to start.

"We're on the verge of a collapse," said Juan Alicea, a former executive director of the authority.

He said three main factors are to blame: Officials halted maintenance of generation units under the erroneous belief they would soon be replaced. Scores of experienced employees have retired. And invest-

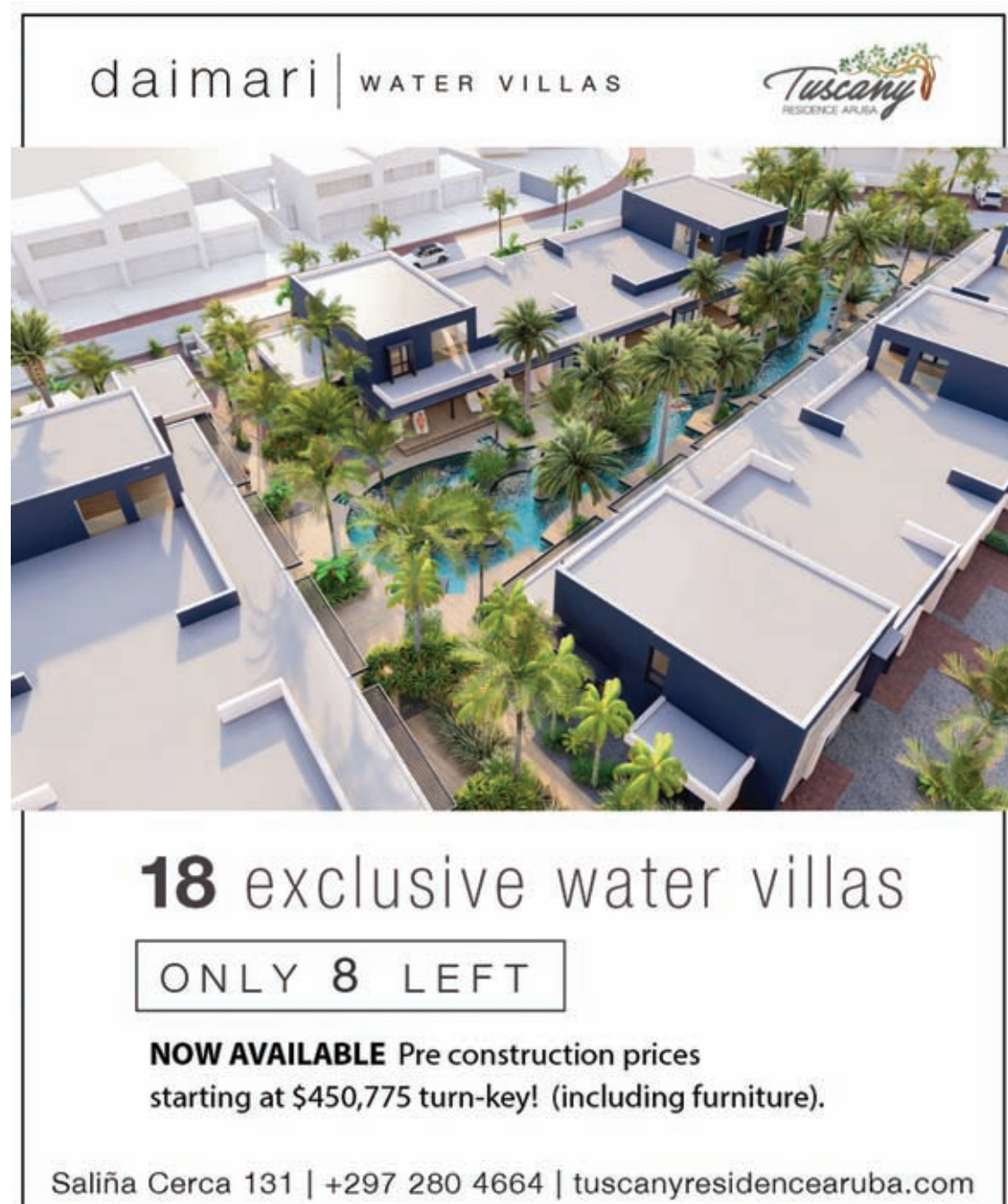
ment to replace aging infrastructure has dwindled. Puerto Rico's power generation units are on average 45 years old, twice those of the U.S. mainland.

Luma has said it expects to spend \$3.85 billion to revamp the transmission and distribution system and company CEO Wayne Stensby said Luma has made significant progress in stabilizing it. He noted that crews have restarted four substations, some of which had been out of operation since Hurricane Maria. □



Demonstrators from various organizations congregate on Fortaleza street to protest against the constant selective blackouts that the island has suffered for weeks due to low power generation, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Friday, Oct. 1, 2021.

Associated Press



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# LOCAL



## Over 125,000 Fit2fly tests completed!

**PALM BEACH —** MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers just completed test number 125,000 since starting testing services at the beginning of the year. With six locations at various resorts on the island and two walk-in locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, it is one of the largest test centers on island.

MedCare's fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

### NAAT Test

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is NAAT test, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

### Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill. These two locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recom-



mended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM.

### At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

### Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The new NAAT will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

### Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies.



For more information, please contact:  
Phone: +297 280 0630  
Open 7 days a week, 7 AM – 7 PM.  
Email: [info@medcare.aw](mailto:info@medcare.aw)  
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## Parke Nacional Arikok

### Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

### The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction, also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself

and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

### Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

### Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the area under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of spe-

cies of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans

will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba, also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

## KLM with additional flights to Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – The Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber announced that the air carrier KLM confirmed an increase in its operation in Aruba.**

KLM will increase its operation with 15 extra flights during the high season from December 15, 2021, to January 14, 2022.

KLM is a great partner for Aruba's tourism since it transports many visitors from the European market.

The flights will be carried out by the Airbus A330-200, with space for 268 passengers.

With these extra flights, KLM increases its capacity to Aruba with 4020 extra passengers in the high season. For Aruba, it entails additional growth potential of European tourists from various connections via the Netherlands.

The different work teams in Aruba and the Aruba tourism offices in Europe started

to inform travel agencies, tour operators, and others about the broader range of possibilities to visit Aruba, especially during the cold winter months in Europe. Also next November, Frontier Airlines will inaugurate its operations in Aruba with a direct flight from Miami. Minister Oduber mentioned that as per this year's projections, the high season will surpass 2019, which was a very successful tourism year. □

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## Kick-off of Kiwanistic year 2021-2022

**ORANJESTAD** - The 4 local Kiwanis clubs have kicked-off the new Kiwanistic year 2021-2022 through a Press Conference & network event held at Balashi Gardens.

As an international organization, Kiwanis Clubs have members who volunteer and are committed to improving the world by making positive lasting differences in the lives of children. Our focus is on serving the kids, and through our projects we create opportunities and provide the support for kids to learn, experience, dream & thrive. Each club president introduced & elaborated on its club's goals, fundraising & community projects, service leadership programs, as well as how anyone can

### Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals Aruba



**Jolitza Limonier**  
President 2021 - 2022  
secretary@kyparuba.org

### Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach



**Rothmar Coenraad**  
President 2021 - 2022  
pr@kiwanispalmbeach.com

### Kiwanis Club of Aruba



**Jokoeza Hooplot**  
President 2021 - 2022  
prkiwanisclubaruba@gmail.com

### Kiwanis Club of San Nicolas



**Endrah Richardson**  
President 2021 - 2022  
kiwanisclubsn@gmail.com

support the children and youth on Aruba. For 2021-2022 the club presidents are: - Jokoeza Hooplot for Kiwanis Club of

Aruba - Rothmar Coenraad for Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach - Jolitza Limonier for Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals Aruba - Endrah

Richardson for Kiwanis Club of San Nicolas.

4 clubs, 1 common goal – to enrich every community we serve and every member we engage.

We'd like to thank Balashi & Tropical Bottling Company for the great support & co-operation with regards to our press conference and hereby invite anyone who

would like to help, volunteer or support in any way, to contact one of the local clubs through Facebook.

Be pending for our famous "K-One Day" on October 23rd, where globally, all Kiwanis clubs come together to execute a local community project to serve the children in each community. □

## Exprodesk invites all businesses to exhibit local products on the webpage "Aruba Showcase" of Exprodesk

**ORANJESTAD** - The Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry invite all businesses that make local products to participate and exhibit them on the webpage of Exprodesk, "Aruba Showcase".

If you are a local enterprise, this is your opportunity to showcase your business and products.

"Aruba Showcase" is a webpage on the website Exprodesk that showcases local products from businesses: To consider your business or products as locally made, you have to comply with the following requirements:

- The local business must be registered at the Chamber of Commerce and has a business license from the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry, if applicable;
- the product must be completely original from Aruba (raw materials and the final product must be made, transformed, and processes in Aruba);
- if the product is not originally from Aruba, it must be transformed/ processed in Aruba (The raw material can be from abroad, but the final product must be made/ transformed/ processed in Aruba).

To register, you must send to e-mail to: s.meijer@deaci.aw. Please include in your mail:

- Description of the product (maximum 25 words);
- picture of the product;
- contact information;
- letter of consent filled out and signed.

The goal of the "Aruba Showcase" is to help local businesses grow and export their products and services to clients around the world. It will it can help the business owners' families and will also help to promote Aruba's economy.

For more information about "Aruba Showcase", and how to participate, you may contact Sharon Meijer via: s.meijer@deaci.aw. □

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# How to benefit from corporate pledges to minority businesses

By ROSALIE MURPHY of NerdWallet

Since the start of 2020, companies from Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase to Google and Twitter have pledged billions of dollars to support entrepreneurs of color.

All those dollars don't go directly into business owners' pockets, however. Many are being invested in other financial institutions — particularly community development financial institutions, whose services include making small-business loans to borrowers underserved by traditional banks.

"We give folks a chance when others can't or won't," says Martina Edwards, chief of strategic partnerships at ACE, a CDFI that supports entrepreneurs in Atlanta and north Georgia with low-interest loans, financial education and business development services. Corporate and philanthropic support "allows us to accelerate the work that we're doing," including making more loans, Edwards says.

If you're a business owner of color, here's how these pledges can benefit you.

## GET A BUSINESS LOAN

In general, corporate investments in CDFIs take the form of loan funds. CDFIs can borrow from these funds at low interest rates and lend that money to their clients.

There are more than 1,200 CDFIs in the U.S., according to the Department of the Treasury, including banks, credit unions, loan funds and venture capital funds.



Montes and Romain founders of PROFIT, the first online bank for minority business owners that does bookkeeping and accounting for free.

Associated Press

CDFIs specialize in the kinds of loans banks might turn down: small loans with low interest rates to borrowers with short credit histories or limited collateral.

For example, ACE's average Paycheck Protection Program loan was around \$24,000, with 90% of funding going to businesses with five or fewer employees and 67% to Black-owned businesses, Edwards says. For comparison, the average PPP loan approved between the start of 2021 and May 31 was \$42,000, and among recipients who provided their race, Black borrowers received 5.8% of approved funding, according to the Small Business Administration.

"The work that we do allows us to provide affordable

capital," Edwards says, "which fuels successful business growth and kind of cascades on through families as they build assets and resources and create jobs."

## GET WRAPAROUND SUPPORT

New Jersey-based TD Bank has dedicated \$30 million in equity capital to CDFIs as part of the Equity Fund it announced in June, according to Michael Innis-Thompson, senior vice president and head of community lending and development for TD Bank.

"They're experts in the field, and they have a strong presence in their communities," Innis-Thompson says of CDFIs.

Business owners often get connected with CDFIs through educational pro-

gramming, from webinars and networking events to monthslong business development courses. ACE offers programming in English and Spanish.

CDFIs are "a resource for more than just capital," Innis-Thompson says. They offer "technical assistance and other support, like accounting, legal, human resources, general advice, as well as how to write a stronger business plan... it's about having a support system so that these businesses can be successful." You can find a CDFI that can serve you by using the CDFI Locator tool from the Opportunity Finance Network, which is the national association of CDFIs.

## FIND A NEW BANK

Like CDFIs, minority deposi-

tory institutions — banks where most stockholders or board members are people of color — are seeing new investment from national banks and corporations. Wells Fargo, for example, has invested \$50 million in equity capital in 13 Black-owned banks.

"They have more of a mandate to revitalize, or do something that's going to be economically impactful to the communities they're in," Alozie says.

Plus, working with a local or community-based bank keeps dollars circulating within your community, which can benefit your neighbors too.

## GET A DIRECT INVESTMENT

In addition to supporting CDFIs, TD Bank dedicated \$75 million to a specialized small-business investment company, an SBA-licensed organization that offers equity and debt financing to growing companies.

Funding from a small-business investment company is similar to venture capital, which is not for every type of business. These investors are typically looking for medium-size, established businesses that are ready to grow — those with revenues of around \$5 million and up, Innis-Thompson says. If you believe your business is the right fit for this type of funding, a list of active SBICs is available on SBA.gov. JPMorgan Chase is also focusing on mid-size companies seeking to scale, pledging \$200 million to be invested alongside private asset management firm Ariel Alternatives' Project Black. □

## Austria to introduce new carbon tax from mid-2022

**BERLIN (AP)** — The Austrian government has announced plans to reform the country's tax system in an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The government said Sunday that it will introduce a new carbon tax beginning on July 1, 2022, and will return that money to residents in the form of a "climate bonus."

Starting next year, Austrians will find themselves having to pay 30 euros (almost \$35) per ton of CO2

— a cost that's likely to be added to consumer bills by companies. That will rise to 55 euros (\$64) per ton in 2025.

The government expects to generate about 5 billion euros (\$5.8 billion) from the tax by 2025.

Each resident in Austria will get an annual reimbursement, with the exact amount determined by where they live to ensure those in rural regions without good public transport don't lose out. Children

are entitled to half their parents' amount — so a family of two adults and two children in Vienna could expect to get 300 euros (\$358) for example.

The goal is to encourage people to opt for climate-friendly forms of transportation and heating by making carbon-intensive choices more expensive, without adding to the overall tax burden.

The governing coalition of Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's conser-

vative People's Party and the environmentalist Greens also announced income tax cuts, a reduction in some health insurance charges and other measures that mainly benefit families and low-and-medium income groups.

It also plans to reduce taxes for companies, particularly those in energy-intensive industries that will be hit hardest by the new carbon tax. □



# CROSSWORD

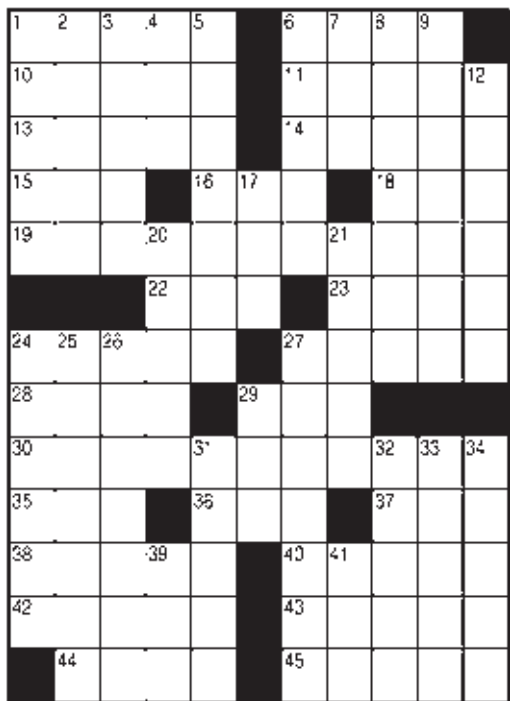
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Locker room
  - 1 Greedy gulps
  - 6 Wound reminder
  - 10 Wading bird
  - 11 Yam or potato
  - 13 Fill with joy
  - 14 "— of Two Cities"
  - 15 Lawyer's letters
  - 16 Cobbler's tool
  - 18 Diarist Anaïs
  - 19 Stupid
  - 22 2016 Olympics host
  - 23 Valentine word
  - 24 Strips for breakfast
  - 27 Less coarse
  - 28 Norway's capital
  - 29 Decline
  - 30 Easily offended
  - 35 Scot's cap
  - 36 Bauxite product
  - 37 Bullfight cry
  - 38 Nebraska city

- DOWN**
- 1 Bed cover
  - 2 Cardiff residents
  - 3 Baghdad native
  - 4 Obtained
  - 5 Enter with stealth
  - 6 No longer fresh
  - 7 Use scissors
  - 8 Desert
  - 9 Take over
  - 12 Provide serving
  - 17 Question of identity
  - 20 Sing like
  - 21 Straighten
  - 24 Low point
  - 25 Red-faced
  - 26 Ecologist's concern
  - 27 Swooned
  - 29 Go downhill
  - 31 Celery
  - 32 Bad kind of situation
  - 33 Vote in
  - 34 Shoulder muscles
  - 39 Owns
  - 41 Poem of praise



Saturday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR  
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## 10-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

VB OAM CTGL ZAJDLPVGY  
ZTVH, TZI T JTGL VB OAM  
CTGL ZAJDLPVGY HAGD, TZI T

CAJTGL — JTNYTNDL LPTLUPDN  
Saturday's Cryptquote: THE WORLD HAS ACHIEVED BRILLIANCE WITHOUT WISDOM, POWER WITHOUT CONSCIENCE OURS IS A WORLD OF NUCLEAR GIANTS AND ETHICAL INFANTS. — GEN. OMAR BRADLEY

# Q&A: Julia Ducournau on bodies, cars and love in 'Titane'



Director Julia Ducournau, center, winner of the Palme d'Or for the film "Titane" appears with Agathe Rousselle, left, and Vincent Lindon during the awards ceremony at the 74th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, on July 17, 2021.

Associated Press

By JAKE COYLE  
AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Julia Ducournau was in town this week for the New York Film Festival premiere of her second feature, "Titane" a movie has already developed the reputation of being the year's wildest, most explosive movies.

"Titane" has prompted walkouts and passionately divisive responses, while also sparking some of the loudest raves of the year. In June, "Titane" won the Palme d'Or, making the French filmmaker only the second woman to ever win the Cannes Film Festival's top honor. In New York the day before meeting a reporter in midtown, though, Ducournau had found excitement at an unexpected place: a softball game in Central Park.

"It was so thrilling," Ducournau said, smiling. "I loved it because I finally understood the rules."

As a filmmaker, though, Ducournau is breaking the boundaries of sexuality, taste and expectation. Her first film, "Raw," combined a coming-of-age tale with cannibalism. "Titane," which Neon releases in theaters Friday, is about Alexia (Agathe Rousselle), who as a girl was in car accident — partly prompted by her father's disinterest in her — leaving her with a metal plate in her head.

She is now a stripper who dances atop muscle cars and casually commits murder with a lethal pick in her

hair. In the film's most talked-about scene, she's impregnated by a Cadillac. Her belly grows and her body begins to ooze motor oil. Fleeing the police after a particularly gruesome encounter, Alexia disguises herself as a long-ago lost child and is adopted by a gruff, grieving fire chief (Vincent Lindon). The headlong odyssey — "a one-way ticket," says Ducournau — ultimately leads to a deeply tender finale. It's undoubtedly the sweetest movie you'll ever see featuring automotive intercourse.

**AP: Did "Titane" start with any idea or image?**

**DUCOURNAU:** The first thing I was sure of is that I wanted to focus on love. One of the hardest things for me to talk about is love. I can't imagine tackling that feeling in a way that's not absolute and unconditional. I see love as a becoming, not as a state. I'm not saying it's possible for us in our lifetime to reach this level of shedding layers and seeing right into the essence of a person — beyond any determinism, beyond any social determinism, gender being one. But I see it as something that could be, to which we could aspire.

**AP: How would you describe what bodies are for you as a filmmaker?**

**DUCOURNAU:** For me, bodies are like the book of humanity. You can tell a lot about someone's history and vulnerabilities. Every-

thing that makes us common but that we don't want to talk about are actually in the open on our bodies, but we tend to hide them. I find that very endearing. At the end of the day, we all take off our clothes and look at our bodies. But the way we look at our own bodies, from our own POV, it's really close. You're going to look at the cellulite on your thighs. You're going to see your belly protruding. You're going to see your boobs sagging. You're going to see your scars. You're going to see the stretch marks. The way you apprehend your own body is already monstrous. I think this is the reason no one is satisfied by their own body. But this is something that I find incredibly moving.

**AP: Early in "Titane," while Alexia is stripping, a body guard reprimands her fans by saying: "Touch with your eyes." Does that line represent something to you?**

**DUCOURNAU:** It does. How terrible it is to say something like that, like it's OK to touch with your eyes. It's like you have one level of touching that is not permitted but you can allow yourself to do something like touching with your eyes, which is absolutely invasive.

**AP: There are also broader implications for looking in "Titane."**

**DUCOURNAU:** The whole film is a lot about deconstructing the look, the gaze you can have of someone, and trying to shed the layers of social construct to finally see a person for real. Not only who that person is but who that person might become somehow. You have to get rid of all the preconceived ideas you can have about what you want that person to be, what you expect that person to be, what you were taught that person would be. It's a lot about looks. The biological father never looks at Alexia. And Vincent's look at the beginning is just a fantasy, so that creates a big lie and doesn't allow her to exist, in a way. □



# Endangered status proposed for Nevada flower at lithium mine

By **SCOTT SONNER**

**Associated Press**

**RENO, Nev. (AP)** — Federal wildlife officials proposed endangered species protections Friday for a desert wildflower known to exist only on a remote Nevada ridge where an Australian company plans a lithium mine.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a proposed rule to add Tiehm's buckwheat to the endangered list, subject to 60 days of public comment.

"We find that Tiehm's buckwheat is in danger of extinction throughout all of its range due to the severity and immediacy of threats currently impacting the species now and those which are likely to occur in the near term," the agency said.

The primary threats are destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat from mineral exploration and development, road development and other vehicle use, livestock grazing, invasive plant species and herbivory, the agency said. Climate change may further exacerbate the risks, and "existing regulatory mechanisms may be inadequate to protect the species," it said.

The Center for Biological Diversity submitted a petition for the listing in 2019 and filed a lawsuit last year in an effort to force the protections and halt plans for the mine.

Officials with Loneer Ltd., which is constructing the lithium mine on U.S. Bureau of Land Management land southwest of Tonopah, said Friday they have long anticipated the listing and factored efforts to protect the plant into the mine's design. Lithium is a key element in batteries for electric vehicles.

"We fully support the decisions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the work it and the BLM are undertaking to safeguard Tiehm's buckwheat," Loneer managing director Bernard Rowe said in a statement. "Loneer reiterates its com-



This photo taken in June 2019 in the Silver Peak Range of western Nevada about halfway between Reno and Las Vegas shows Tiehm's buckwheat growing in the high desert where a lithium mine is planned.

**Associated Press**

mitment to preservation of this species."

Fewer than 44,000 of the plants are known to exist, the Fish and Wildlife Service said, and the number may be even lower after an unprecedented attack by rodents last summer. The wildflowers are found only between elevations of 5,900 and 6,200 feet (1,800 and 1,900 meters) in eight tiny subpopulations in the Rhyolite Ridge area of the Silver Peak Range, about halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

Patrick Donnelly, the Center for Biological Diversity's

Nevada state director, said a survey conducted by the California Botanic Garden this summer found fewer than 16,000 plants.

The proposed listing marks a "banner day for native plant conservation," Donnelly said.

"Extinction is a political choice, and the Biden administration made the right call to prevent this special plant from disappearing forever," he said.

Donnelly maintains a formal listing would prevent Loneer from constructing the mine. However, Rowe said the company is con-

fident that with a "combination of avoidance, propagation and translocation, we can achieve the successful coexistence of Tiehm's buckwheat and our environmentally significant project."

The Fish and Wildlife Service said potential impact from the proposed mining project, combined with the loss resulting from the recent rodent attack, would reduce the plant's total population by 70% to 88% — from 43,291 individuals to roughly 5,289 to 8,696 — and remove 30% of its total habitat.

It noted Loneer plans to try to remove and salvage some of the damaged plants by relocating them. But because unoccupied sites are not suitable for all early life stages of the plant and there's a lack of research, "we are uncertain of the potential for success of translocation efforts."



## Editor

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# Mercury beat Aces 87-60 to take 2-1 lead in WNBA semifinals

By **JOHN MARSHALL**

AP Sports Writer

**TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)** — The Phoenix Mercury have three of the best players in the WNBA, each one capable of taking over a game.

But this team goes deeper than Diana Taurasi, Brittney Griner and Skylar Diggins-Smith.

Brianna Turner proved it in Game 3 of the WNBA semifinals.

Turner had 23 points and 17 rebounds while Las Vegas focused on stopping Taurasi, leading the Mercury to an 87-60 win over the Aces on Sunday and a 2-1 lead in the series.

"A lot of teams have been leaving her open and then it's about her making plays," Mercury coach Sandy Brondello said. "We got her in some great positions near the basket. She's just gaining confidence."

The Mercury got off to another fast start and never let up, winning a second straight rout as members of the NBA's Phoenix Suns cheered from the front row of Arizona State's Desert Financial Arena.

Turner was the catalyst at both ends, shooting 9 of 14 while frustrating Aces star A'Ja Wilson on defense.

Griner did her part, finishing with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Taurasi couldn't get the shots to fall after a career playoff-high 37 points in Game 2, but



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner (42) drives between Las Vegas Aces forward A'ja Wilson and center Liz Cambage (8) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

had six assists and four rebounds.

Though Diggins-Smith also struggled shooting — 2 of 12 — she ran Phoenix's offense to near perfection, finishing with nine assists and no turnovers.

The Mercury were just as good on the defensive end and dominated the glass, finishing with a WNBA playoff-record 58 rebounds — 29 more than Las Vegas.

Now Phoenix is within one win of reaching the WNBA Finals for the first time since winning the 2014 title. Game 4 is Wednesday in downtown Phoenix.

"These two games are the best we've played all

season, at least consecutively," said Mercury guard Shey Peddy, who had 10 points and eight rebounds. "We were moving the ball well."

Las Vegas had a better defensive performance than it did in a blowout loss in Game 2.

The offense was disjointed. The Aces struggled against Phoenix's pressure and to get open shots to fall, shooting 31% and 2 of 14 from the 3-point arc. The Mercury also blocked six shots, including three by Griner.

Liz Cambage led the Aces with 13 points.

"Offensively, we stunk,"

Aces coach Bill Laimbeer said. "They played very hard on defense — a good share of the credit goes that way — but we just didn't have it offensive-wise today."

The Aces won the first game 96-90 at home, but Phoenix evened the series with a 117-91 win in Game 2, scoring the most points in a regulation playoff game in the WNBA's 25-year history.

The series shifted across the desert to the Valley of the Sun, though not to the Mercury's home arena. The Footprint Center had previously booked Disney on Ice, so the Mercury were

forced to play their first home game of the WNBA semifinals at Arizona State. Phoenix got off to a fast start in Game 2 — a record 68 first-half points — and kicked off Game 3 with 11 straight points. Taurasi got it started with two early 3s and Turner took it from there, scoring 17 first-half points.

Phoenix led 46-31 at half-time turned to Griner early in the second half. She delivered, scoring on a series of shots inside to extend the Mercury's lead to 68-44 late in the third quarter — well on their way to another lopsided victory.

## FRUSTRATED WILSON

Wilson had a hard time shaking Turner in the first half and let out a scream after firing up an airball on a midrange jumper in the second. The 2020 league MVP later was hit with a technical foul arguing a foul call and finished with eight points on 2-of-14 shooting.

"It started with her free throws three games ago and I think it just wore on her a little bit," Laimbeer said. "She had a good second half today, found the bounce that we've been looking for. Some of the shots still didn't go in, but at least the bounce and the confidence was there."

## UP NEXT

Game 4 is Wednesday at the Footprint Center in downtown Phoenix. □



Atlanta Braves' Austin Riley swings for an RBI single off New York Mets pitcher Noah Syndergaard in the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By **CHARLES ODUM**

AP Sports Writer

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Austin Riley drove in two runs with two

hits and the Atlanta Braves looked postseason ready in a 5-0 win over Noah Syndergaard and the New

# Riley drives in 2, Braves beat Mets 5-0, head to playoffs

York Mets in Sunday's final regular season game for both teams.

Syndergaard (0-1) allowed two runs, including a lead-off homer to Jorge Soler, in his one scheduled inning. It was his second start after returning from Tommy John surgery.

The Mets (77-85) were held to three hits. They suffered one final letdown in their disappointing season as they failed to win the season series against the Braves. The Braves already had clinched their

fourth consecutive NL East title before winning two of three in the weekend to take the season series 10-9. Manager Brian Snitker used his normal lineup.

Braves right-hander Charlie Morton allowed one hit in 2 2/3 scoreless innings. Morton is scheduled to start in Friday's opener of the NL Division Series at Milwaukee.

Soler lined the homer to left on Syndergaard's second pitch. With one out, Ozzie Albies doubled and scored on Riley's single. Riley was

thrown out attempting to advance to second on a review after being called safe at second on the field. Syndergaard pitched one scoreless inning against Miami on Tuesday.

Trevor Williams allowed three runs in five innings for the Mets. Riley hit an RBI double off Williams in Atlanta's three-run third.

Spencer Strider (1-0) threw 1 1/3 scoreless innings in his second appearance after rising through four levels of the Braves' minor leagues this season. □



# Across MLB, other pro sports, coaches value rest

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Joe Maddon has long been a believer in the importance of rest and recharging. Each year, he provides his players with an extended mental and physical break by putting them through "American Legion Week" — that is, show up, lace up the cleats and take the field.

The players can appreciate some lighter, stress-free afternoons compared to the typical daily grind of early hitting in the cage, fielding drills and rounds of batting practice.

"I know in the 80s, I'm going to go back a little bit, that's when coaching became greater than. It was many more concepts put out there and all of a sudden we went from just showing up and taking batting practice, a couple ground balls, maybe a round of in-field and going and playing your game to the point where you had to come out at 3 o'clock for extra work," Maddon recalled.

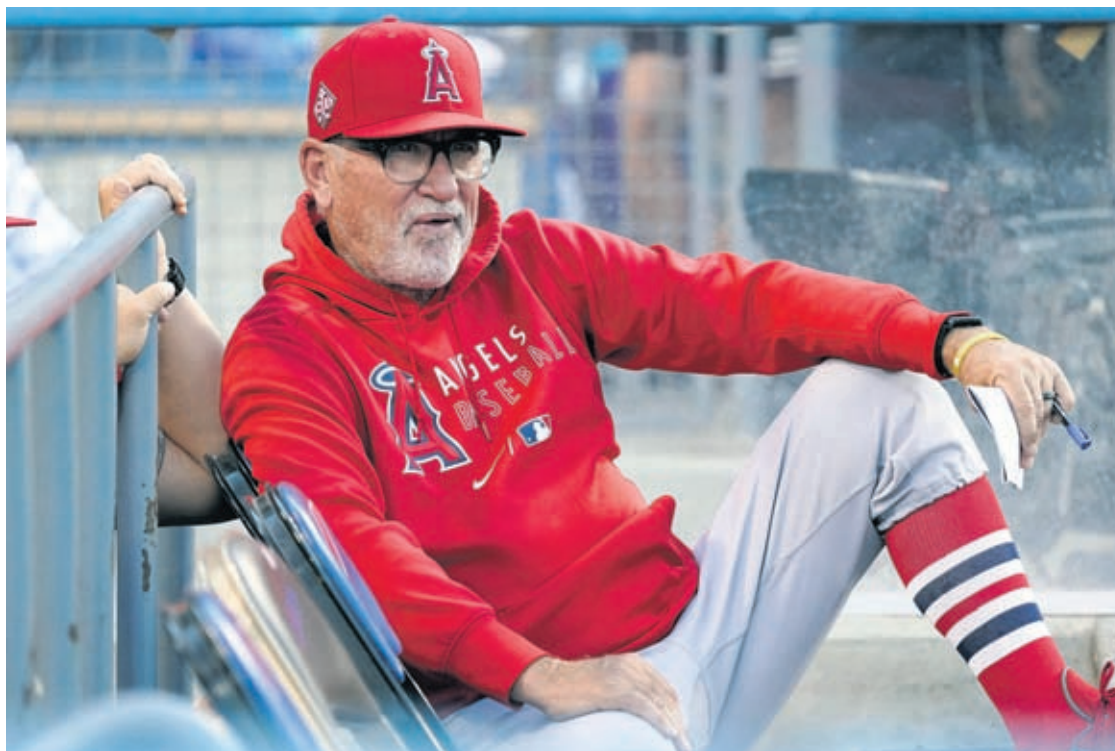
"And there are times when that's necessary.

When a guy is really ascending and he needs to iron some things out, absolutely.

There's the redundant component to it, it's absolutely important to do that but once you're reached the level of competency, I think it needs to be brought back. I believe in rest, I believe in sleep," Maddon said.

These days, coaches from college athletics to the professional leagues weigh how much work is too much: it's rest vs. reps. And as baseball enters the post-season after a six-month grind, players' health and energy levels will be paramount.

That doesn't mean practice and fine-tuning a craft has lost its importance. Many coaches and managers insist it's about finding what's right for each individual. In San Francisco, second-year manager Gabe Kapler gives players days off even when they might not want a break



In this Aug. 6, 2021, file photo, Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon watches from the dugout before a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

or know they need one, such as during a hot hitting stretch.

"The good thing about our staff is they don't demand anything like that of you, it's what you feel like you need," Giants infielder Tommy La Stella said.

"I would be surprised if that wasn't the case most places. I'm sure they encourage recovery. If you feel you need the extra reps I'm sure they'll be made available to you."

It helps many professional and college athletes these days train so efficiently on their own during the off-season and take care of their bodies in different ways that they aren't as far behind when reconvening with their teams when their sport starts up again. □

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such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, coconut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans.



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